



Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
District of North Dakota

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Three Men Sentenced for Arson

MINOT - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on July 12, 2010, **Troy Trottier**, 21, of Belcourt, North Dakota, **John Houle**, 21, of Belcourt, North Dakota, and **Brock Chidester**, 19, of Rolla, North Dakota, were each sentenced before United States District Court Judge Patrick A. Conmy on one count of conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States and six counts of arson.

Judge Conmy sentenced Trottier to three years and five months in federal prison to be followed by five years of supervised release. Trottier was ordered to pay a \$700 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund and restitution of \$269,850, joint and several with the co-defendants.

Judge Conmy sentenced Houle to two years in federal prison to be followed by five years of supervised release. Houle was ordered to pay a \$700 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund and restitution of \$269,850, joint and several with the co-defendants.

Judge Conmy sentenced Chidester to two years and four months in federal prison to be followed by five years of supervised release. Chidester was ordered to pay a \$700

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July 12, 2010

Page 2

special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund and restitution of \$269,850, joint and several with the co-defendants.

On December 13, 2008, six random house fires were reported on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. Each home burned to the ground and was a total loss; no residents were present in any of the homes during the fires. Law enforcement officials received a tip about three individuals, Trottier, Houle and Chidester, who were involved in starting the fires. The men admitted entering several homes and while inside setting fire to them with a cigarette lighter.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs - Turtle Mountain Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Belcourt Fire Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Brandi Sasse Russell prosecuted the cases.

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